

Volume 10 Number 3
December 2001

Danthonia

Newsletter of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation



Royal Botanic Gardens
Melbourne

21 FEB 2002

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Danthonia

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Fiona Hall and Jeanette Mill

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Front cover illustration:
Boletellus obscureicoccineus
Photo: Heino Lepp

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ANPC Inc. Mission Statement

"To promote and develop plant conservation in Australia."

Contributing to *Danthonia*

Danthonia is a forum for information exchange for all those involved in plant conservation: please use it to share your work with others. Articles, information snippets, details of new publications and diary dates are all welcome. The deadline for the March 2002 issue is 15th February, 2002.

Please send typed or handwritten articles, no more than 2 A4 pages, to Jeanette Mill by fax, mail, e-mail, or diskette. If sending by e-mail, please send in the body of the text or as an attachment in Word or Rich Text Format (rtf) to:
anpc@anbg.gov.au

Illustrations or logos are always needed too, in the form of clear prints, slides or drawings.

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A Mushrooming Interest: The 2001 Fungimap Conference

*Pam Catcheside, Fungimap Regional Coordinator, SA,
State Herbarium of South Australia, Plant Biodiversity Centre, Hackney, SA*

Fungimap is a scheme to map the distribution of species of Australian mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi, using the information sent in by a network of volunteer recorders across Australia. It was set up in 1995 by Dr Tom May of the National Herbarium of Victoria and is a joint venture of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. It has been partly funded by the Ian Potter Foundation.

Fungimap's main aim is to document the distribution and times of fruiting of selected species of Australian fungi. The project also provides data for recognising rare and endangered fungal species, documenting habitat change, predicting where fungi may occur and recognising climate change. Thus, it provides a bank of knowledge which may be used in habitat conservation and management. To date, more than 650 people are involved in the scheme, and more than 7000 records have been submitted. This has enabled distribution maps for each of the target species to be produced.

The inaugural Fungimap conference was held at Denmark, WA from 22nd to 26th June 2001. The aims were to increase awareness of the Fungimap project, to bring the forgotten kingdom of the fungi to public attention and to help participants in the conference to become familiar with fungi and the Fungimap target species. It was organised by Katrina Syme (WA Fungimap Coordinator) and the Denmark Environment Centre. Their hard work, enthusiasm and meticulous planning ensured a smooth-running and very enjoyable conference.

More than 120 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, USA and UK attended the conference. Expertise ranged from those with almost no knowledge of fungi, to professional mycologists, but all shared an enthusiasm and a thirst for increasing their knowledge of fungi.

On the first day, following welcoming and opening addresses, 11 talks were given covering the topics of the Fungimap project, the flora of Western Australia, mycorrhizal associations, fungi and fire, truffles,

ascomycetes or sac fungi, Amanitas of New Zealand, weird fungi, fungi in the Western Australian wheat belt, the Kimberleys and South Australia.

The next three days followed a pattern of forays in the mornings and workshops in the afternoons. Each day, foray sites covering a range of habitats were listed. Participants selected the site they wished to visit and leaders with mycological expertise were assigned to each group. The average group size was eight to 10, enabling each member of the group to see fungal specimens *in situ* and appreciate features used in their identification as they were pointed out by the group leader. Each fungus could usually be identified at least to genus level and diagnostic characters for the genus were explained. A list was made of species seen in each locality. Five to



Boletellus obscureicoccineus, featured in colour on the cover, is one of the Fungimap target species. It is widespread in Australian forests, being found both in the east and in the west - including areas near the Fungimap conference site. Here it is growing in a bed of Cladonia, a lichen. Photo: Heino Lepp.

seven species per group were collected. All group leaders had permits to collect fungi in WA.

After the morning in the field, collections with site descriptions were taken back to the main hall and put on display tables. Collections of rare or unusual fungi that would become permanent collections were separated from those that would be used in the afternoon workshops. Fungi for permanent collections were dried in preparation for deposition in the WA Herbarium. Lists were given to a central coordinator.

Workshops covered a range of topics: fungal identification for beginners, identification of macrofungi including the use of keys, the Fungimap CD-ROM (*see review on page 7 of this newsletter*), Internet resources for fungi, microscopy, truffle identification, preparation of fungal specimens for the herbarium, and conducting surveys of macrofungi. Workshops were organised so that delegates could take part in two workshops each afternoon. One evening, Taylor Lockwood, an author and photographer, presented a stunning display of slides of fungi taken throughout the world: *"Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi"*.

As the conference progressed, the feeling of camaraderie among the participants increased. The first day had been an information day and the next three days enabled people to share knowledge, enthusiasm and ideas. The forays were fun – as they should be – but they also helped us to develop our fungal identification skills. Not many conferences are as 'hands on' as this one. And workshops reinforced the knowledge gained in the forays.

The fifth and last day was an opportunity to look back at the conference and to look to the future of Fungimap. A talk was given on problems encountered when describing new species. Slides were shown of possible additions to the present list of 100 target species. Then followed an open forum. Delegates divided into groups and discussed six key challenges for Fungimap:

1. whether to increase and diversify the present list of target species;
2. managing data, volunteers and the network;
3. workshops and standardised techniques;
4. development of kits for members;
5. funding and lobbying;
6. Fungimap for kids.

The dinner on the final evening was the culmination of the conference. By this time we were feeling somewhat mind-blown from the concentration of information, new fungi and new experiences but nonetheless were relaxed and satisfied that we had achieved a great deal: more than 120 people had a greater knowledge, understanding and respect for fungi and their environments and had had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the process.

Delegates are now looking forward to the next Fungimap National Conference which will be in Victoria, probably at Wilsons Promontory in May or June 2003, to coincide with the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Melbourne Herbarium.

For more information on Fungimap contact Gudrun Arnold (details below); for more about the Fungimap conference visit Fungimap's website:
<http://calcite.apana.org.au/fungimap>.

Fungimap Central Coordinator: Gudrun Arnold, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141. Email: fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank the Department of the Environment and Heritage in South Australia for providing funding for me to attend the conference. Also the Denmark Environment Centre for their excellent organisation and especially Katie Syme, Conference Organiser; Tom May, Fungimap Convenor; Gudrun Arnold, Fungimap Central Coordinator; Regional Coordinators and all delegates attending the conference. I am also indebted to the staff at the Plant Biodiversity Centre, South Australia, for their support and encouragement.

The Annai Genetic Garden in Tamilnadu

It's great to get reports of plant conservation activities in far-flung places. A report was recently sent to the ANPC from A. Alexander, Manager of the Genetic Garden of the Inba Seva Sangam in Tamilnadu, South India. This garden contains a collection of rare plants which occur locally, as well as locally-used medicinal plants. Last year they organised a natural resource management exhibition. This was an opportunity for schoolchildren from around the region to learn about their local environment and especially locally-occurring plant species. It raised awareness of over-exploitation of medicinal plants and loss of plant and animal biodiversity. By showcasing local villagers' knowledge of plants and their uses, it also allowed children and their teachers to appreciate local ethno-botanical knowledge. An innovative aspect of the exhibition was the participatory approach taken to gathering ethno-botanical information from local villagers.

National Coordinator's Report

Jeanette Mill, ANPC National Coordinator

Conservation techniques course

As this issue of *Danthonia* was going to press, the third ANPC Plant Conservation Techniques Course had just finished in Lismore, NSW. If the participants' evaluation sheets are any indication, it was a great success. Participants came from all around Australia and as far afield as Fiji. Local expertise in such topics as genetic testing and rainforest rehabilitation gave the course a unique flavour to complement the presenters who came from around Australia and overseas. Reports and photos will be published in the next *Danthonia*.

Flagging the forgotten flora

One of the ANPC's aims is to raise awareness of the 'forgotten flora', the cryptogams - fungi, mosses, lichens, liverworts etc. which form such an essential part of our biodiversity, but which are so often overlooked. Publishing regular reports in *Danthonia* is a good way of keeping cryptogams uppermost in people's minds. In this issue fungi are fairly well represented, with reports on some of the excellent work and products to come out of the Fungimap initiative. If any members are working with cryptogams and would like to share their experiences with others, please consider submitting an article or snippet to *Danthonia* in the future.

Increasing the membership base

I'd like to make a special plea to members: most members are affiliated in some way with organisations which have an important stake in the conservation of Australia's threatened flora - whether it be a tertiary education institution, a farmers' peak body, a company with land management responsibilities or

a potential corporate sponsor. It is a critical issue for the ANPC that it have a recurrent stable independent funding base, and increased membership is the most important way this can be achieved. It's your network, and you can help. The National Office maintains supplies of promotional material, and will happily distribute these to members to pass on to potential members. Please contact the National Office (see page 1) with your ideas, and support the ANPC to in turn support your valuable work.

Strategic planning process

ANPC is currently undertaking a strategic planning process. I would encourage members to participate - for more details please contact the National Office.

Volunteer positions vacant at ANPC

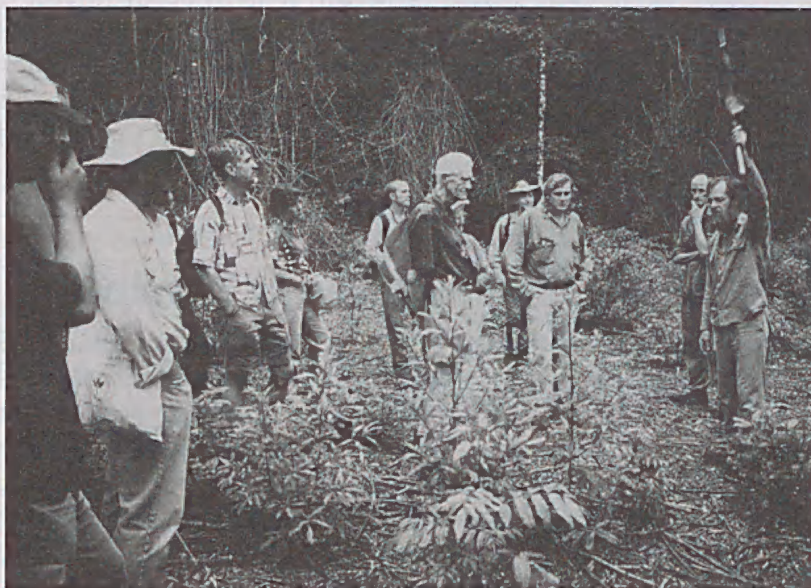
The ANPC is looking for committed volunteers to fill these two important posts:

Website Manager: We need someone to help us maintain, update and improve our website. You could be based anywhere, as long as you have access to email and some experience of website design and maintenance, as well as access to web editing software (unless you are based in Canberra, in which case you can use ANPC's).

Membership Manager: We also need someone to help us maintain our membership records and process new memberships. This would be based in the ANPC's

National Office in the Australian National Botanic Gardens. You would ideally need some experience of Microsoft Access, although we are happy to train you. This would involve a commitment of about half a day per week.

If you would like to help, please contact Jeanette Mill at the National Office - details on page 2.



ANPC Plant Conservation Techniques Course participants learning about rainforest rehabilitation. Photo: Jeanette Mill, ANPC

The New Centre for Plant Conservation at RBG Sydney

Bob Makinson, *CPC Coordinator, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney*
ANPC Committee Member

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens has established a Centre for Plant Conservation (CPC). While Gardens staff have been doing conservation-related work for many years in science, horticulture and education, the CPC is intended to give this work a new sense of co-ordination and higher visibility, establish new partnerships, and to act as a point of attraction for funds and other resources.

Through the CPC, the Gardens will continue to provide authoritative advice on state, national and international conservation issues, contributing to committees and councils responsible for overseeing natural resource management.

I commenced work in June 2001 as the CPC Coordinator (I was formerly Curator of the Australian National Herbarium at the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research in Canberra). Dr Maurizio Rossetto, currently Project Leader in the Centre for Plant Conservation Genetics at Southern Cross University (*Editor's note: and host of the ANPC 2001 Plant Conservation Techniques Course*), will join the team in February 2002 in a research role. This core of CPC staff work in concert with other Gardens staff conducting conservation-related work in science, horticulture and education.

While our main role is to extend the conservation work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, there are clearly many points of common interest with ANPC, and both organisations are committed to developing collaboration.

Research

Four research themes have been selected to complement the existing research of the Gardens and link with research in other organisations through the newly formed NSW Biodiversity Research Network:

- *Biodiversity conservation:* Conservation of threatened vegetation types in NSW, helping land managers to conserve remnant bush, and using research and best practice to manage natural vegetation on the Gardens' three sites.
- *Charismatic plants:* Research and interpretation of compelling or iconic plants, such as the Wollemi Pine in NSW, the Titan Arum in Indonesia and selected taxa including orchids, palms and cycads in NSW and beyond.
- *Restoration ecology:* recovery and restoration of plant biodiversity through research projects

directed by the objectives of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy and by actions in Recovery Plans for threatened species or communities.

- *The 'Gold List':* Setting new priorities for conservation, including biodiversity hot-spots, remnant bush and the 'forgotten flora' (mosses, fungi, lichens and algae) to supplement the existing listings of species, communities, habitats and processes.

CPC website

The CPC website includes about 200 links to other useful conservation sites: www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/HTML/SCIENCE/plantcon/index.htm

Check them out and please advise us of any that don't appear to work, any that you find particularly useful, and any that we've missed that should be added.

Later stages of CPC website development will include more text content, a non-vascular plants resource directory, profiles of endangered plants, and a "Most Wanted" list. These areas of content will be coordinated with RBG's PlantNet and with NPWS, to avoid overlap and ensure that the information presented is of best use.

CPC News electronic bulletin

Two issues of *CPC News* have been produced. This is an electronic-only bulletin that will appear every six to eight weeks. It contains items on conservation work at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and snippets of news from elsewhere, with a generally New South Wales emphasis, including Internet resources of interest and recent determinations (legislative schedule declarations) by the NSW Scientific Committee. Comments and news items are welcome. To subscribe, send an email to the address below with "SUBSCRIBE CPC NEWS" in the subject line, and details of your position and organisation (if relevant) and areas of interest in the text frame.

Cumberland Plain research focus

RBG Sydney (through the CPC) and Greening Australia (NSW) Inc have been developing links over the last few months, with a particular focus on pursuing funding for research and practical trials for storage and germination of Cumberland Plain (western Sydney) understorey species. While understorey plants are well-recognised by wild area conservationists and bush

regenerators as crucial to the maintenance of healthy systems, their use in broad-scale revegetation has been limited. Greening Australia (NSW) are particularly alert to this problem and are seeking to lift the revegetation industry's game in this regard.

Network building

Part of the role of the CPC is to develop partnerships and linkages between RBG Sydney and other organisations and individuals. In developing a Cumberland Plain understorey funding proposal it became clear that the many researchers dealing with the area did not have particularly good links with each other, so the CPC organised an information exchange meeting. Held at Mount Annan on 17 July, 24 people attended, including researchers from four universities (Macquarie, University of Western Sydney, UNSW, and University of Wollongong) plus the NSW Dept. of Land & Water Conservation, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Defence Estates Organisation. A contact list with

32 participants to date is being maintained.

A similar but larger meeting on December 10th, focusing on research priorities for orchid conservation in south-eastern Australia, brought together about 40 people from conservation agencies and research institutions throughout NSW, ACT and Victoria. The meeting considerably advanced the common understanding of the scale of conservation work needed on orchid species and habitats, and the degree of our ignorance on some crucial aspects of their biology.

CPC looks forward to maintaining close links with ANPC locally and nationally. Joint activity should be on both our agendas.

Contact: Bob Makinson, Centre for Plant Conservation, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney NSW 2000.

Ph. +61 (0)2 9231 8174; Fax +61 (0)2 9241 1135

Email: cpc@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au or bob.makinson@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Steps Towards a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

*Associate Professor David R. Given, Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission Plant Conservation Committee
ANPC Vice-President*

In August 1999, the XVIth International Botanical Congress (St Louis, USA) called for plant conservation to be recognized as an outstanding global priority in biodiversity conservation. The Congress recognized that as many as two-thirds of the world's plant species are in danger of extinction in nature during the course of the twenty-first century, and that this threatens our need for and expectation of using plant diversity to build sustainable, healthy and better lives for the future.

A meeting of 16 botanical experts held in April 2000 in Gran Canaria, Spain, took up the Congress resolutions and developed the *Gran Canaria Declaration*, which called for the development of a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The aim of such a strategic program would be to halt the current and continuing unacceptable loss of plant diversity by supporting and facilitating appropriate plant conservation initiatives at all levels. The Declaration was presented to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Nairobi in May 2000, which decided to consider the establishment of a global strategy. Other conferences such as the World Botanic Gardens Congress, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Brazilian Botanical Congress and the 16th Conference of the Association

for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa voiced strong support. A further meeting (Gran Canaria II, held in London in May 2001 and attended by both the President and Vice-President of ANPC), further refined the strategy.

The Strategy was formally adopted by the technical meeting of the Convention (SBSTTA-7) in November 2001, and will go forward to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in April 2002. Adoption as part of the CBD will give the Strategy official acceptance by over 180 countries. It recognizes that plants are essential to sustain life on earth, that they provide the basis for food webs and ecosystems, and that in addition to the small number of crop plants we use for our basic food and fibers, many thousands of wild plants have great economic and cultural importance and potential, providing food, fuel, clothing and shelter for vast numbers of people throughout the world.

In addition, the world's plant diversity is seriously threatened by deforestation, habitat loss, destructive development, agricultural expansion, over-consumption of resources, and the spread of alien invasive species. Further loss of plant diversity is predicted through genetic erosion and narrowing of the genetic basis of many species. The disappearance of such vital and massive amounts of biodiversity provides one of the

greatest challenges faced by the world community: to halt the destruction of the plant resources that are so essential for present and future needs.

The basic structure of the Strategy includes a mission statement, a vision, operational goals, action plans to achieve the operational goals and a process for monitoring, reporting, assessing and reviewing outcomes, and communication. An important component is the inclusion of outcome-orientated targets.

To date, target-setting has not been a significant part of the operations of the Convention during its first decade. Although many goals have been achieved, in the form of valuable outputs and processes, so far little focus has been given to the development and realisation of

targets.

A workshop organised by the CBD secretariat in February 2002 will work further on plant conservation targets and their precise definition. There is a need to ensure that targets are measurable or "SMART", that is: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**greed (or **A**chievable), **R**ealistic (or **R**elevant) and **T**ime-bound. Fifteen targets have been suggested and are being negotiated. These include three targets related to understanding and documenting plant diversity, seven targets related to conserving plant diversity, three targets related to using plant diversity sustainably, one relating to education issues, and one related to building capacity to undertake plant conservation. Further details can be found on <http://www.biodiv.org/convention/sbstta.asp>.

The New Fungimap CD-Rom

The Australian Fungal Mapping Scheme (or Fungimap) aims to allow non-experts to help map the Australian distributions of 100 fungal species, each readily recognizable by the naked eye (*see article, p. 2 this issue*). Fungimap has recently launched "*the ultimate resource for fungimappers*": the Fungimap CD-ROM. Compiled by Fungimapper Ian Bell, this CD-ROM contains photographs of all but a few Fungimap target species, and provides detailed descriptions of all species.

The CD-ROM is designed for expert and beginner alike. It contains more than 700 colour illustrations of most target species, maps for all species and an innovative layout. If you are truly a beginner to the fungal kingdom, the CD-ROM provides keys to cap colour, gill colour and shape, spore colour and shape, whether the fungus has pores, gills, teeth or spines, whether it is a puffball or a jelly fungus.

Fungimap is dedicated to making it possible for as many people as possible to be part of the Australian Fungal Mapping Scheme and the CD-ROM is deliberately very inexpensive.

Danthonia asked Heino Lepp, a scientific associate and fungi expert at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, to try it out. He commented that it gives excellent value for money: "*Fungimap is a wonderful community-based project, to which a large number of non-experts have already made significant contributions. The CD-ROM is there to serve such people, so community comments and suggestions for improvement are essential. So, buy this CD-ROM - and let Fungimap have your ideas for Version 2.*"

Sources: Heino Lepp and Fungimap website:
<http://calcite.apana.org.au/fungimap/>

Requires PC/Windows and screen resolution at least 800x600 and high colour. \$15+\$3 postage (within Australia); enquiries to fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au or Fungimap, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141.



ANPC's First Sponsor Member: The Australian Institute of Horticulture

Steve Corbett, AIH National President

The Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) is the ANPC's first Sponsor member. This new membership category has three levels: (1) Conservation Sponsor; (2) Conservation Supporter; and (3) Conservation Contributor. Sponsor members receive additional benefits in return for a sponsorship level of membership fee (see membership form). AIH has joined the ANPC as a Conservation Contributor member.

AIH is an incorporated association of about 1000 corporate and individual professional horticulturists across Australia. Members are engaged in a wide variety of occupations associated with the plant sciences, design, landscape and nursery industries, floriculture, park and garden management and maintenance, arboriculture, education and training and natural resources. AIH is a national body with a representative National Council and State Councils. AIH has established a new mission based on the values and aims of the Institute as follows:

"The Australian Institute of Horticulture will lead the industry nationally in promoting excellence and environmental responsibility in horticultural practice through quality professional development, services and advocacy".



**Australian
Institute of
Horticulture Inc.**

Supporting conservation

AIH's interest in Australian plants is reflected in our logo (shown below), a stylised version of *Acacia pycnantha*, the national floral emblem of Australia. One of AIH's aims is "To conserve Australian flora and habitats to enhance biodiversity". While these aims are, in part, implemented through our strategic and business plans, considerable conservation related work is carried out through the work of our members. A number of AIH members are directly involved in the conservation of

Australian plants, such as in managing remnant vegetation areas within parks or propagating and maintaining rare and threatened species within botanic gardens.

AIH recognises the importance of the ANPC as the peak plant conservation network in Australia and joined as the first Conservation Contributor Member to support a valuable initiative.

It is hoped that AIH's membership of the ANPC will enhance awareness of plant conservation issues and encourage a more active role within our industry. To find out more about

AIH visit our website: www.aih.au.com (The ANPC is also now linked to our website) or contact our National Office: Tel: 02 4325 4088; Fax: 02 4324 2563
Email: national.office@aih.au.com

Society for Conservation Biology Goes International

*Associate Professor David R. Given, Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission Plant Conservation Committee
ANPC Vice-President*

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is a major international organization for conservation biologists, conservation researchers, and increasingly for the application of conservation. SCB was formed in USA in 1987 with the vision of becoming an international society for conservation biology professionals. Its highly respected international journal *Conservation Biology* fulfils the international mission of SCB. Nevertheless, the membership of SCB and the main focus of its other

activities has remained largely North American. This has been of increasing concern to the Society which now wishes to maximize the international impact of the science and practice of conservation biology.

The Board of Governors of SCB has approved a process to form several international sections, including one for Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands. A section requires the participation of at least 100 SCB members

who wish to join the section and vote to elect a set of officers. Accordingly, an interim steering committee was formed at the SCB meeting in Hawaii in July 2001 to establish a fully constituted section for Australasia.

Currently the interim committee is encouraging those members resident in New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea to indicate their support for a regional section of the Society. This will include an annual financial allocation to help run the regional section, membership on the SCB Board, and greater profile for conservation biology and good conservation management in the region. The interim committee is also encouraging those involved in conservation who are not yet members to consider joining.

Membership rates are now highly discounted for on-line access to the journal (\$25 for students and people in

developing countries, \$86 for regular), and membership with a paper subscription to *Conservation Biology in Practice* is \$30-40 depending on country. Check the website at www.conservationbiology.org for full details.

Enquiries about SCB and indications of support for a regional section can be sent to any of the following:

Meg Montgomery:

megm@performancetechnologies.com

David Given: givend@attglobal.net

Suzette Stephens: suzette@forwild.umass.edu

Denis Saunders: Denis.Saunders@dwe.csiro.au

Richard Frankham: rfrankha@rna.bio.mq.edu.au

John Craig: j.craig@auckland.ac.nz

David Norton: DNORTON@fore1.canterbury.ac.nz

Karen Firestone: karenf@austrmus.gov.au

Angie Penn: a.penn@unsw.edu.au

Native Mistletoes in Wellington

The New Zealand Department of Conservation has recently published a booklet and fact sheet describing the eight native mistletoe species that occur in the Wellington region.

The booklet includes illustrations and photographs of each species and distribution maps. It describes threats to the mistletoes and the conservation management activities required for their protection. The species included are the beech mistletoes (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*, *P. colensoi* and *Alepis flavida*), the lowland leafy mistletoes (*Ileostylus micranthus* and *Tupeia antarctica*) and the three leafless mistletoes (*Korthalsella clavata*, *K. lindsayi* and *K. salicornioides*).

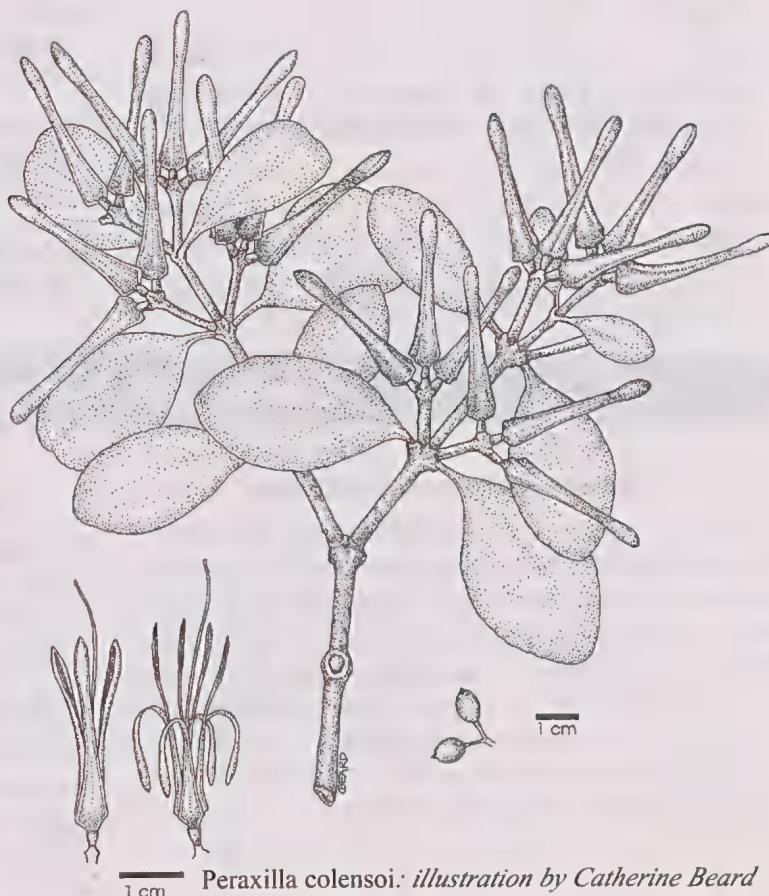
The booklet will be used to raise awareness of mistletoe conservation and to improve understanding of mistletoe ecology and biogeography. The free fact sheet is being disseminated to people interested in learning more about New Zealand's native mistletoes.

For more information please contact:

John Sawyer, Biodiversity Conservation Officer, Department of Conservation, Wellington Conservancy, P.O. Box 5086, Wellington, New Zealand.

Tel: (04) 470 8427; Fax: (04) 499 0077

Email: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz



1 cm *Peraxilla colensoi*: illustration by Catherine Beard

Research Roundup

Batty, AL., Dixon, KW., Brundrett, M. and Sivasithamparam, K. 2001. **Long-term storage of mycorrhizal fungi and seed as a tool for the conservation of endangered Western Australian terrestrial orchids.** *Australian Journal of Botany* 49 (5): 619-628.

Chiarucci, A., Maccherini, S. and De Dominicis, V. 2001. **Evaluation and monitoring of the flora in a nature reserve by estimation methods.** *Biological Conservation* 101(3): 305-314.

Davies, R. and Christie, J. 2001. **Rehabilitating Western Sydney's bushland: processes needed for sustained recovery.** *Ecological Management & Restoration* 2(3): 167-178.

Grant, CD. and MacGregor, CM. 2001. **Topsoil seed banks in grazed and ungrazed eucalypt woodlands at Newholme, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia.** *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39(3): 471-482.

Gross, CL. 2001. **The effect of introduced honeybees on native bee visitation and fruit-set in *Dillwynia juniperina* (Fabaceae) in a fragmented ecosystem.** *Biological Conservation* 102(1): 89-95.

Higgins, SI., Pickett, STA., Bond, WJ. 2000. **Predicting extinction risks for plants: environmental stochasticity can save declining populations.** *TREE* 15(12): 516-519.

Murray, BR., Thrall, PH. and Woods, MJ. 2001. **Acacia species and rhizobial interactions: Implications for restoration of native vegetation.** *Ecological Management & Restoration* 2(3): 213-219.

Below is a selection of papers and posters presented at the *First International Orchid Conservation Congress*, 24-28 Sept. 2001. For details of proceedings' publication dates contact Russell Barrett at Kings Park and Botanic Garden on:

Tel: 08 9480 3637

Email: rbarrett@kpbg.wa.gov

Reversing the decline of *Diuris fragrantissima*. Night, C., James, E. and Akiyama, S.

Tuber production as a method for improving conservation of terrestrial orchids. Debeljak, N., Regvar, M. and KW Dixon.

Research into the propagation of eastern Australian *Caladenia*. Raleigh, RE., Cross, RG., Lawrie, AC. and ACA Moorrees.

Melblom's Spider-Orchid *Caladenia hastata*: managing the *in situ* recovery of a Critically Endangered orchid. Govanstone, A., Hill, J. & Pritchard, A.

Improving the success of translocation of terrestrial orchids. Batty, AL., Dixon, KW., Brundrett, M. and K. Sivasithamparam.

Restoration genetics of *Caladenia* in urban bushland remnants in Perth, Western Australia. Krauss, SL. and Taylor, R.

An overview of the conservation status of the orchids of Victoria. Backhouse, G., Coates, F. and Todd, J.

Electronic Addresses

The Botanic Garden Newsletter

This new newsletter is for the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand and is produced by the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG). The first issue has just come out, and issues are planned for March, July and November each year. This first issue is only available via the Internet, through the CHABG website: www.anbg.gov.au/chabg. The editors are seeking comments and input for future issues. Contact them at: bganz-news@anbg.gov.au

Centre for Plant Conservation News

The new Centre for Plant Conservation at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney (see article page 5, this issue) has a website: www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/HTML/SCIENCE/plantcon/index.htm

Australian Natural Resources Data Library

The National Land and Water Resources Audit (NLWRA) has launched the Australian Natural Resources Data Library which provides access to data and information used in the creation of the Australian Natural Resources Atlases. It can be accessed at <http://adl.brs.gov.au>

Publications and Information Resources

The Western Australian Flora: A descriptive catalogue

*Grazyna Paczowska and Alex R.
Chapman. 2001*

*Wildflower Society of WA, WA
Herbarium, CALM and the Botanic
Gardens and Parks Authority*

This publication catalogues the diversity of vascular flora occurring in WA. Every native and naturalised alien plant known to occur in the state is listed by family, genus and species and accompanied by a brief description. In total 11,922 vascular plant taxa are described.

Cost: \$49 plus p&h. To order contact: The Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc), PO Box 64, Nedlands, WA 6009. Ph: (08) 9383 7979; Fax: (08) 9383 9929; Email: wildflowers@ozemail.com.au
Website: florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/catalogue.html



Grassed Up: Guidelines for revegetating with native grasses

*C. Waters and R. Whalley. 2001
NSW Agriculture, Orange.*

A practical manual suitable for landholders, environmental officers and students interested in using Australian native grasses for revegetation programs.

Cost: \$33, from NSW Agriculture. Ph: (02) 6391 3433

Managing Farm Bushland: A field manual for the Northern Tablelands of NSW

*Richard Morsley and Ruth Tremont. 2001
WWF Australia*

A hands-on management guide covering topics such as strategic grazing of bushland remnants, fencing and stock exclusion, weed control and choosing photo points for vegetation monitoring. Also includes 'walk and record' monitoring sheets to assist farmers with vegetation monitoring.

Cost: \$5.50 (incl. GST and p&h), from WWF Australia. Contact Noeleen Crispo on Ph: (02) 9281 5515; Email: ncrispo@wwf.org.au

National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005

Environment Australia. 2001

These new objectives and targets build on *The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*. The targets have been agreed upon by the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT and include all jurisdictions having vegetation clearing controls in place by 2001 that will have the net effect of reducing the national net rate of land clearance to zero.

Review of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity

ANZECC. 2001. Commonwealth of Australia

Biodiversity Conservation Research: Australia's priorities

*ANZECC & Biological Diversity Advisory Committee
2001. Environment Australia*

The above three reports are available online at www.ea.gov.au/about/publications/index.html or by phoning EA's Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772.

Wetland Plants of Queensland. A field guide.

*Kathy Stephens and Ralph Dowling. 2001.
CSIRO Publishing*

This practical field guide describes and illustrates in colour some 90 common and widespread wetland plants found in Queensland, and gives a distribution map for each species. Cost: \$39.95

CSIRO Publishing, 150 Oxford St, PO Box 1139, Collingwood, VIC 3066. Ph: (03) 9662 7666; Freecall: 1800 645 051; Fax: (03) 9662 7555; Email: sales@publish.csiro.au; Web: www.publish.csiro.au
Natural Resources Data Library

Conferences, Workshops, Courses & Fieldwork

Getting it Right: Guiding principles for natural resource management in the 21st century

11-12 March 2002, Adelaide Convention Centre

A two-day symposium hosted by Primary Industries SA, Dept. of Environment and Heritage and Water Resources SA. Will present guiding principles that natural resource managers can use to help optimise the positive impacts of their actions, while minimising the risks of any negative impacts. Registration fee \$198.

Full details at www.plevin.on.net/GIR or from Conference Secretariat, Ph (08) 8379 8222; Fax: (08) 8379 8177; Email: events@plevin.com.au

Robert Brown 200

8 - 10 May 2002, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

In May 1802, Robert Brown first set foot in Sydney as surgeon-naturalist on Matthew Flinders' expedition. He returned several times over the next three years, making a pre-eminent contribution to knowledge of our local flora. This three-day conference celebrates his time in this region and his lasting scientific contributions.

The conference will include invited talks and posters on two broad themes: Brown's lasting influence on botanical systematics; and changes in the vegetation of the Sydney region since his visit: current conservation and land management issues.

Further information: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/brown200>. Or contact Professor David Mabberley (chair of the organising committee): dmabberley@ga.org.au, Tel: (02) 9231 8111; Fax: (02) 9251 7231.

Australian Plants in the Desert:

Australian Plants Society SA Region Conference

24-26 May 2002, Alice Springs

The conference will include talks on the flora and ecology of Central Australia; the Alice Springs Desert Park; native vegetation surrounding Alice Springs and a monitoring project being conducted by the Alice Springs group. A number of other plant walks and talks also included. Cost: \$35.

For further information contact: Connie Spencer, Conference Convenor. Tel: 08 8952 4694 Fax: 08 8952 4693; E-mail: constans@austarnet.com.au

Science for Plant Conservation: An international conference for botanic gardens

July 8-10, 2002, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

The goal of this conference is to bring together conservation scientists from the world's botanic gardens and academia to share methods and results that will advance plant conservation immeasurably.

For more information contact Mary Foody (mfoody@tcd.ie) or Steve Waldren (swaldren@tcd.ie); Ph: +353 1 608 1274; Fax: +353 1 608 1147; conference website: www.rbg.ca/cbcn/science/

Connecting with Plants - Lessons for Life. BGCi 5th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens.

29 Sept - 4 October 2002, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Themes will include evaluation and research; multiculturalism and indigenous issues in interpretation; linking science and sustainability; novel methods in interpretation/communication; forming partnerships (with museums, national parks, forests, etc.)

For further information contact: Janelle Hatherly, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road Sydney, NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9231 8111

Fax: (02) 9251 4403

Email: Janelle.Hatherly@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



ANPC Regional Groups

ANPC has several Regional Groups which play a key role in allowing those with an interest or involvement in plant conservation to get together and share information through activities organised in their regions. The groups enable efficient communication of best practice information on plant and ecological community conservation to be spread to agencies and groups active in on-ground works. The Regional Groups are coordinated by voluntary coordinators, and activities include seminars and workshops, field days, practical activities such as threatened plant surveys and weeding.

If you would like to find out more, contact the ANPC National Office (details on page 1), or your nearest Regional Group Coordinator whose details are listed below.

Illawarra and South Coast NSW Region

Coordinators: Paul Formosa, Natural Areas Council, Wollongong City Council.

Ph: (02) 4225 2638; Email: pformosa@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Roger Hart, Booderee Botanic Gardens, Jervis Bay. Ph: (02) 4442 1122

Email: roger.hart@ea.gov.au

NSW South West Slopes Region

Coordinator: Paul Scannell, Albury Botanic Gardens, Albury, NSW

Ph (02) 6023 8769; Fax (02) 6041 6527; Email: pscannell@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.albury.net.au/~accparks

Sydney Region

Coordinator: Tracey Armstrong, Mount Annan Botanic Gardens

Ph: (02) 4634 7939; Email: Tracey_Armstrong@rbgsyd.gov.au

Tasmanian ANPC Regional Group

Coordinator: Andrew Smith, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania.

Ph: (03) 6233 2185 Fax: (03) 6233 8308; Email: andrews@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

No group near you??? Then perhaps you'd like to set one up!!!

All groups are run by volunteers supported by the ANPC National Office. Running one is a great way to get more involved in plant conservation in your local area. If you're interested, contact us at National Office and we will be happy to get you started.



Looking for information on plant conservation?

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation's Internet Resource Directory is the place to start, with links to over 200 plant conservation websites and other electronic resources.

Visit the Directory at:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/web.html>

And finally....

Conservation Land for Sale

Collector - 30 minutes drive from Canberra. 330 acres fully timbered, with many large, old trees and six dams. An excellent habitat for many birds, both resident and migratory. Conservation land also adjacent to increase the conservation value of the land. Selling due to ill-health. Ring Pat on Ph (02) 4848 0073.

New Leek Orchid Discovered

A new species of Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum aff truncatum*) (see photo) was discovered by Geoff Robertson (President, Friends of Grasslands) as part of a vegetation survey by Friends of Grasslands in 2000 in southern NSW. It is white in colour and stands 35 to 40 cm tall.

In 2000 three plants were present and given the rather specialised nature of the site, it is feared that other populations are unlikely to turn up. According to David Jones it is related to *Prasophyllum truncatum*, a species endemic to Tasmania.

The site was revisited several times this spring. Seven plants had grown, six of which seemed like they would flower. Unfortunately, four disappeared (possibly eaten), but three flowered. One had several mature fruits. Walking around the area failed to turn up any further plants.

Consideration is being given to what might be done to monitor the population and, if possible, to save it from extinction.



Prasophyllum aff truncatum.
Photo: Andrew Paget

ANPC Membership List

Please note: date in brackets indicates the member has joined or renewed for that year. Addresses and names of contact persons are available from the National Office. Memberships are valid for the calendar year only!

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ACT Parks and Cons. Service, ACT (2001)
Adelaide Botanic Gardens, SA (2001)
Albury Botanic Gardens, NSW (2001)
Alcoa World Alumina Australia, WA (2001)
Anne Clements & Associates Pty Ltd, ACT (2001)
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, NSW (2002)
Aust Institute of Horticulture Inc, NSW (2002)
Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, SA (2001)
Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT (2002)
Aust Tree Seed Centre (CSIRO), ACT (2001)
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, QLD (1999)
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Centre for Plant Conservation Genetics, NSW (2000)
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Council of the City of Orange, NSW (2000)
CSIRO Publishing, VIC (2000)
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Pacific Power, NSW (2000)
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Parks Australia-North, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean (1999)
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Roy L Taylor (2002)

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Botanischer Garten und Botanisches (2002)

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Eka Karya Botanic Garden (2002)
Indonesian Network for Plant Conservation (2002)

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Heino Lepp



Heino Lepp

Clockwise from top left

Dictyophora multicolor, a stinkhorn fungus found on soil in moist forests from Australia to Malaysia.

Arthurus archeri, a native species in the stinkhorn group, with the arms not fully expanded. Found in Tasmania, Victoria, ACT and NSW.

Omphalotus nidiformis, a native Australian species that glows in the dark. Widespread in eastern Australia and also found in the south-west of WA.

A species of *Galerina*, found on rotten wood in moist forests.

Photographs by Heino Lepp